

poses an undue economic hardship on that community. In developing these procedures, the Administrator should consider those actions which can be taken administratively by the Agency and those which will require the enactment of legislation. The conferees do not intend to create loopholes in the Safe Drinking Water Act for compliance to a national arsenic standard. Rather, the conferees wish to emphasize that they expect the Agency to adopt without delay all appropriate available administrative actions permitted under existing law to facilitate reasonable extensions of time for compliance of these communities.

The Agency is directed to report to the Congress by March 1, 2002 on its review of the affordability criteria and the administrative actions undertaken or planned to be undertaken by the Agency, as well as potential funding mechanisms for small community compliance and other legislative actions, which, if taken by the Congress, would best achieve appropriate extensions of time for small communities while also guaranteeing maximum compliance.

Retains language proposed by the House establishing the Minority Emergency Preparedness Demonstration Program at FEMA.

Deletes language proposed by the House prohibiting the VA from implementing the "Plan for the Development of a 25-Year General Use Plan for Department of Veterans Affairs West Los Angeles Health Care Center." The conferees have instead included report language in medical care urging the development of a reasonable development plan which is suitable for the community and improves access to VA services.

Modifies language proposed by the House prohibiting funds to be used to implement or enforce the community service requirement of the United States Housing Act of 1937 except for residents of projects funded under HOPE VI.

Deletes language proposed by the House prohibiting funding of any person or entity convicted of the Buy American Act.

Retains language proposed by the Senate requiring HUD to submit a report by January 8, 2002, detailing obligations and expenditures of title II funds for technical assistance, training or management improvement activities.

Deletes language proposed by the Senate amending section 70113(f) of title 49.

Deletes language proposed by the Senate regarding playground equipment. The conferees have instead included report language under EPA and CPSC directing those agencies to submit reports regarding chromated copper arsenate-treated wood playground equipment.

Deletes language proposed by the Senate providing \$115,000,000 from NSF funds for EPSCoR, which includes \$25,000,000 in co-funding.

Deletes language proposed by the Senate expressing the Sense of the Senate that the Committee on Environment and Public Works needs to address the State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund.

Inserts language clarifying the use of funds available to NASA from timber sales.

New language is included to facilitate the use of funds provided through HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to aid in the recovery of New York City from the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The conferees are aware funds appropriated to the President in Public Law 107-38 have been set aside to be provided to the State of New York for assistance to New York City for properties and businesses af-

ected by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and to assist in the City's overall economic recovery. Given the extraordinary level of damage to New York City caused by the terrorist attacks and the unique circumstances affecting the economic recovery of the area, the conferees have included language authorizing the one-time waiver of requirements as the Secretary deems appropriate to facilitate this recovery.

Prior to the release of funds, the conferees expect the State of New York to submit and to secure approval from the Secretary of a plan that would allocate these funds to the highest priority economic development needs to address the emergency situation pursuant to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Language is also included requiring certain notification requirements on the use of these funds and relevant waivers being granted. The conferees request that HUD provide quarterly reports to the Committees on Appropriations on the obligation and expenditure of these funds.

The conferees do not expect these funds to be used to compensate or otherwise reimburse insurance companies for losses related to the terrorist attacks. The conferees understand that issues related to insurance costs and the terrorist attacks are currently under review by the relevant House and Senate authorization committees.

CONFERENCE TOTAL—WITH COMPARISONS

The total new budget (obligational) authority for the fiscal year 2002 recommended by the Committee of Conference, with comparisons to the fiscal year 2001 amount, the 2002 budget estimates, and the House and Senate bills for 2002 follow:

[In thousands of dollars]

New budget (obligational) authority, fiscal year 2001	\$108,346,441
Budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, fiscal year 2002	110,671,650
House bill, fiscal year 2002	112,742,553
Senate bill, fiscal year 2002	113,351,308
Conference agreement, fiscal year 2002	112,742,537
Conference agreement compared with:	
New budget (obligational) authority, fiscal year 2001	+4,396,096
Budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, fiscal year 2002	+2,070,887
House bill, fiscal year 2002	-16
Senate bill, fiscal year 2002	-608,771

JAMES T. WALSH,
TOM DELAY,
DAVID L. HOBSON,
JOE KNOLLENBERG,
RODNEY P.

FRELINGHUYSEN,
ANNE M. NORTUP,
JOHN E. SUNUNU,
VIRGIL GOODE, Jr.,
ROBERT B. ADERHOLT,
BILL YOUNG,
ALAN B. MOLLOHAN,
MARCY KAPTUR,
CARRIE P. MEEK,
DAVID PRICE,
ROBERT E. CRAMER, Jr.,
CHAKA FATTAH,
DAVID OBEY,

Managers on the Part of the House.

BARBARA A. MIKULSKI,

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
TOM HARKIN,
ROBERT C. BYRD,
HERB KOHL,
TIM JOHNSON,
ERNEST F. HOLLINGS,
DANIEL K. INOUE,
CHRISTOPHER S. BOND,
CONRAD BURNS,
RICHARD C. SHELBY,
LARRY CRAIG,

(except for general provision on arsenic),

PETE V. DOMENICI,
(except for general provision on arsenic),

MIKE DEWINE,
TED STEVENS,

Managers on the Part of the Senate.

THE GREATEST GENERATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, we are a nation at war, a war the President has said may take years. He has asked for the Nation's patience and perseverance to deal with the perpetrators of terror and bring them to justice. A united nation stands prepared to make the necessary sacrifice and put up with the heightened security that disrupts our daily lives. It is an inconvenience that pales in comparison to the sacrifice of those brave Americans at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the fields of Pennsylvania on September 11.

For elder Americans, this is a second day of infamy that they have persevered through, the first being December 7, 1941. These Americans, that Tom Brokaw aptly describes as "the greatest generation" know all too well the meaning of sacrifice and resolve. No generation has shouldered more proudly this Nation's rise to world power. No generation has borne such a heavy burden. None stands more committed than they to stand with the Commander in Chief during this struggle. They know intuitively, as did the first President of their generation born in this century, that we must put Nation above self.

With all the patriotic fervor and resolve, they stand committed today to face any challenge, conquer any foe and sustain a nation free of terror for their children. Proud veterans know that this is a match that cannot be postponed and comfort the young, in return, with the words of Roosevelt that "We have nothing to fear but fear itself." They are in every sense of the word magnificent citizens and role models. They have given much and asked little in return.

They hear all the platitudes and promises. They are celebrated in speech and in books and in the movies. But it is hard, hard to go home and look them in the eye and say there is

no prescription drug relief, to say we are exhausting the Social Security surplus not only to fight Osama bin Laden but to provide corporate tax cuts. It is hard to look them in the eye as they travel to Canada for prescription drugs while Congress rolls back the alternative minimum tax.

Even amidst what must be hurtful to them, they never waiver. They stand by their Nation, their flag, their beliefs, prepared to sacrifice yet again for the Nation they love. Living out their lives in dignity is all they ask. Platitudes and promises do not heat their homes, put food on their table, or pay for the prescriptions needed to sustain their lives. Their generation believes you should be known by your deeds, not by the words that translate into empty promises.

There will be numerous speeches given on Veterans Day exalting the brave men and women of our Nation. Wreaths will be placed at memorials and people will gather in solemn remembrance and in firm resolve. When Members are back in their districts for parades and speeches and memorials, they should take a long look in the eyes of those veterans. We stand on their shoulders, the benefactors of their sacrifice and accomplishments.

They are prepared to see this second day of infamy through until justice is served. If only Congress would respond with the same resolve for them, the resolve to see their twilight years lived out in dignity, the resolve to provide them with affordable prescriptions here at home. If only Congress would show the willingness to sacrifice a corporate tax cut to preserve a life, to heat a home, to have a nutritious meal. If only Congress had the resolve to preserve Social Security and Medicare, the programs that have kept our elderly barely above the poverty line.

This is an unprecedented opportunity. The Nation stands united behind the President and Congress to root out terrorism.

AIRLINE SECURITY BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, tonight we are gathered to discuss a serious issue, and that is the issue of airline security. One of my colleagues from the great State of Texas is here and is on a limited time schedule, so I will begin this hour together by turning the time over at this point to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ).

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. First of all, let me congratulate the gentleman on taking this opportunity for us to come and say a few words on this very important

issue. It is an issue that we recognize that we have not come to grips with since September 11, and I just wanted to share with my colleagues a couple of statistics.

Prior to September 11, we had over 9 million passengers. After that date, we have had only 5 million. So we have had a drastic decrease.

There is no doubt that people have some serious concerns about flying. A lot of people that are flying now are those that have business and those that have to, but a lot of people are choosing not to fly. And for good reasons they feel insecure in terms of the situation that they find themselves in.

The actions of the House leadership have delayed the passage of strong airline security legislation. Politics must give way to action. This is not the time to be partisan. This is not the time to be playing games at the expense of our national security. It is a time to deal with it. It has been 7 weeks. So we have to come to grips with it.

We must provide the best security we can at our airports. Not just adequate security, not just sufficient security; no, we need to provide the best security, and we will not get the best security if we continue to auction it off to the lowest bidder. We have to come to learn the hard way that airline security is a national security. So we need to recognize that national security should be in the hands of highly trained, highly motivated Federal law enforcement personnel.

The current work force, brought to us by private contractors, are underpaid and undertrained, and we recognize that. We all understand that, and we all realize that we have a serious problem. This weekend someone managed to slip through at the O'Hare Airport at Chicago. He did not just have one knife but seven folding knives with blades up to 4 inches. He also had a stun gun and a small container labeled teargas pepper spray.

This is unacceptable. The American people expect our airport security personnel to be able to handle the job and be able to do the right thing. We cannot take chances. We cannot accept what we have before us, and we have to make sure that when it comes to tourism, when it comes to trade, when it comes to security in the air that we make it as secure as possible.

What disturbs me is that the company at O'Hare is the same company that has already been cited by the FAA and has been placed on probation. Here we have a company that we continue to allow to be there, continue to allow them to do the things they have been doing.

□ 2030

It is obvious that the private companies do not provide the type of security that we need. The private companies, no matter what, are going to cut cor-

ners. When it comes to our national security, we should not live with those types of situations where they are going to cut corners.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, the gentleman talks about the private security company that is responsible for the situation in Chicago. That same company is responsible for the security at the Columbus, Ohio, airport which I flew out of this morning. While I was standing in line waiting to get on the airplane, there was a lady who started talking about her frustration. She knew I was a Member of Congress, and she said we need to federalize these workers. Who can I write to and express my opinion. I shared with her some names that she could contact.

Then she told me this story. She said when I came to the Columbus, Ohio, airport, and I am a quilter, I went through security and after I went through security, I realized I had a large pair of scissors and what she described as a rotary blade cutter. She got through security and realized she had these scissors and blade. She said they were valuable to me, and I knew if I was caught with them, they probably would take them away, so she went back through security and took them to her car and left them in her car and then came back to the airport. She said I am furious I was able to get through security this morning with those scissors on me.

Madam Speaker, it is happening over and over and over. This one particular company, the Argenbright company, seems to be very, very lax in the expectations they have for their employees, apparently for the training they provide; and certainly they are very lax with the supervision. Otherwise, these multiple incidents would not happen.

It is a dangerous situation. Some of my colleagues have expressed that they think I ought not to say that flying is not safe. So I will say it this way: flying still has a risk attached to it. Is that risk less than it was before September 11? Perhaps. In some cases it may be much, much less. But the fact is that people have a right to accurate information. The American traveling public has a right to know what kind of security exists before they choose to get on an airplane and fly, especially if they are going to put their family members at risk. We are trying to inform the public, and the public is the one that will ultimately force this Congress to do the right thing and force the airlines to do the right thing. Until they feel safe, they will not return to the airlines as they have in the past.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I agree with the gentleman completely. A survey showed that 85 percent of Americans support the importance of federalizing our airline screeners. There is no doubt even after we have Federal workers we are still going to have some breaches. But I feel confident that those people can do a better